



MHS TRACK



NW BASEBALL



NW TRACK



NW SOFTBALL

THE NW MISSOURIAN SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Lorek relying on youth

By Chris Schoonover
Missourian Reporter

Head track coach Scott Lorek has two young squads preparing for the upcoming outdoor track season.

On the men's side, the Bearcats return junior All-American Tyler Shaw in the 100-meter hurdles, along with more young talent that Lorek expects to contribute.

"We have a lot of young men that I expect to come up big in their events," Lorek said. "We are very mature for the youth on our squad."

Some of the young talent that Lorek expects to have a big impact is sophomore Seth Staashelm in the decathlon and junior Taylor Overmiller in the 800-meter run.

The Lady Bearcats also bring a young squad into outdoor competition.

"We lost a lot of seniors to graduation last year," Lorek said. "This year our team is definitely a

younger squad."

The 'Cats return junior national qualifier Angela Adams in the 5,000 meter run and sophomore Brittany Poole, who ended the year ranked 26th nationally in the steeplechase.

This year's team will also feature senior sprinter Rachel Lewis, who qualified for the national indoor competition two weeks ago and a former indoor national qualifier, senior Bridget Cline, in the 400-meter run.

Lorek expects great things from redshirt freshman Ashli Mosby in the 100-meter hurdles, who is on the verge of qualifying nationally for the indoor 60-meter hurdles.

"I expect us to be competitive on the conference level and to have a few individuals be competitive on the national level, as well," Lorek said.

Both teams kick off the season April 2 for the Northwest Open at Herschel Neil Track.



LORI FRANKENFIELD | CHIEF VISUAL JOURNALIST

SOPHOMORE JUMPER PAUL Kite clears the high jump bar during an indoor practice.

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FILE PHOTOGRAPH

SENIOR SPRINTER TAYLOR Gadbois competes at a Maryville track meet last season. Gadbois is returning to compete in multiple events this season.

Girls reload with talent, boys start over

By Bryce Mereness
Chief Sports Reporter

Building off a district championship and fourth place finish at state, the Lady Spoofhounds look to have another strong track and field team.

Returning are state medalists senior Taylor Gadbois and junior Sidney Schenkel, members of the second-place 4x400 relay, but gone are Jordan Stiens and Meridee Scott, the other members of the 4x400 team. Stiens also got silver in the 100 and 300m hurdle events and won the long jump.

"Obviously we lost a special talent in Jordan Stiens as she goes off to run track at the University of Nebraska," girls head coach Grant Hageman said. "You don't ever replace a Jordan Stiens. But, we have some new girls coming out that we're excited about. We have a lot of girls returning that we know will improve and score more points this

year. We have a lot of pieces of the puzzle I think so far. I think we can be successful again."

Even though track is largely an individual sport, Hageman tries to build the team atmosphere.

"We always tell our girls that our main goal is to become a team, and run for each other," Hageman said. "We really focus on the team aspect of things, even though a lot of people view track as an individual sport. We spend a lot of time talking about it. I think last year's district championship meant a lot to these girls. I think they'll be out to make sure they improve every day and work towards running their best, throwing their best, jumping their best at the end of the year."

The 'Hounds kick off their season March 24 in Cameron, Mo.

Boys head track coach Chris Holt does not know what to expect when the team hits their first meet March 24.

It is a fresh start with a lot of

new faces.

"Basically we're starting from scratch," Holt said. "We don't know much about what we've got. It's going to be a very, very young squad. There are only three seniors on the team."

Sophomore Derek Stiens returns to the squad after winning the conference championship in pole vault last year. The 'Hounds lone state qualifying event, the 4x400m relay, will also see new faces after the graduation of Derek DeMott and Keenan Joiner.

"It's not exciting, if anything it's kind of depressing as a coach when you know you're having to replace basically your entire team," Holt said. "I guess the exciting part is you're going to get to see what some kids can do. Our expectations are usually pretty high in track, but with such an inexperienced team we might have to lower our expectations a bit which is not something we like to do."

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BEARCATS

Around the horn

Bats slow to heat up

By Tony Botts
Sports Editor

The Northwest softball team will be relying on a nucleus of young pitchers and position players this spring.

“We think we have a good team,” head coach Ryan Anderson said. “You can see from the first two days out, (the) offense wasn’t there. We had six freshmen and sophomores in the lineup, and it showed. So much of that comes from confidence and playing and doing that.”

With the return of sophomore pitchers Jenna Creger and Morgan Burnmeier and junior pitcher Nicole Ackelson, the Bearcats have a stable of arms.

“We need them. This whole year we’re going to need them,” Anderson said. “We need that confidence to step forward right away.”

The pair of sophomores each turned in a complete game in the first double-header of the year against Northeastern State (Okla.).

Gone from last year’s lineup is All-MIAA and All-Region performer Erin Leslie, who topped the Bearcats hitting charts in batting average (.445), hits (73) and

homeruns (8).

However, senior All-American utility player Dacey Hassey and sophomore second baseman Hailee Hendricks return this season to supply some pop to the lineup.

While the bats had a slow start in the season’s first pair of double-headers, Anderson is not panicking.

“I’m not worried about those,” Anderson said. “I think they’re going to come along. Especially with the new kids; it’s breaking out of the shell. It’s ‘OK, it’s just softball, we’ve played it all our lives.’

“It’s just getting that first initial hit or just the back-to-back-to-back hits with players in the lineup where it starts to get contagious and people realize, ‘OK, this is easy. We can do it.’

After failing to capitalize on a chance to finish third in the MIAA last season, Anderson still carries an optimistic mind set into this season.

“We have some players to get it done,” Anderson said. “But it all comes to staying healthy and all that kind of stuff. It’s gonna help especially if we can start taking some big steps (in the Missouri Southern Tournament).”

“Especially with the new kids; it’s breaking out of the shell. It’s ‘OK, it’s just softball, we’ve played it all our lives.’

-Ryan Anderson



“I certainly would put our pitching staff up against anybody in the conference.”

-Darin Loe

2010 Baseball stats

Batting average- .248	ERA- 7.03
Runs- 235	Runs allowed- 362
Hits- 391	Hits allowed- 524
Homeruns- 26	Strikeouts- 265
Slugging percentage- .364	Homeruns allowed- 64
Fielding percentage- .961	Batting average against- .313

2010 Softball stats

Batting average- .297	ERA- 4.33
Runs- 260	Runs allowed- 275
Hits- 417	Hits allowed- 501
Homeruns- 37	Strikeouts- 203
Slugging percentage- .452	Homeruns allowed- 42
Fielding percentage- .940	Batting average against- .344



FILE PHOTOGRAPH

JUNIOR PITCHER CHRIS Green hurls a pitch during one of Northwest’s games against Emporia State last season.

Loe, team have high expectations

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

The Northwest baseball team is looking to build on the success it had during the second half of last season.

After starting out 6-26, even Bearcats went 14-8 down the stretch to get into the MIAA Tournament as the six seed.

“I thought it was real important for us to get back to the conference tournament last year,” head coach Darin Loe said. “We took a year off the year before. I think just getting back, even though we lost our first two games, was important for our young kids to see what that atmosphere is all about and play that kind of baseball.”

The sixth place finish earned the ‘Cats the No. 7 slot in the MIAA pre-season coaches poll.

“I think our guys kind of took that as a slap in the face,” Loe said. “Certainly a lot of that comes from our finish last year. You look at just that second half of last season and I think we’re definitely a top three, top four team in the conference.”

“We’ve got to prove some people wrong. They’re right until we prove them wrong. That’s something we’ll travel with and put on the board and use as motivation.”

The ‘Cats will start this season like every other, with lofty expectations.

“We set a goal of a conference championship every season,” Loe said. “I think our number one goal is to compete every day. If we compete every day and play our best baseball, we’ve got an opportunity to win a championship and be a very high seed in the MIAA Tournament.”

The ‘Cats return a core comprised of mostly pitching, including senior team captains Chris Green, Jeremy Tate and Jayson Huett.

“We have high expectations for our pitchers,” Loe said. “It’s definitely a quality group. I certainly would put our pitching staff up against anybody in the conference.”

Loe is expecting big things of his returning players, but sees freshman third baseman Eric McGlaufflin and his bat as a key to the team’s success.

“He’s really been swinging the bat well in the fall and through the winter,” Loe said. “We’re going to have to have his bat in the lineup. He’s a guy that I don’t think the big stage will affect him, even being a true freshman.”

Northwest opened its season last weekend by dropping four games to West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas.



FILE PHOTOGRAPH

JUNIOR PITCHER NICOLE Ackelson winds up during a game against Missouri Southern last season.

Practice gets new season underway

By Orlando Carrizales
Missourian Reporter

With spring on its way, Lady Spoofhounds' head soccer coach Bayo Oludaja is excited to start the season.

The season has not started yet, but the team had its pre-season meeting. Oludaja was excited about the number of girls ready to start the season.

The cold winter has not stopped the 'Hounds from playing during the off-season.

"Some of the girls have been involved in the seven v. seven play in St. Joe," Oludaja said. "This is the first season they have really had an organized group that has gone to participate in that. I can see that some of the benefits from there will be brought into the season."

Practice started Monday, and

Oludaja has a group of upper-classmen to push the rest of the team.

"We still have a core group of present seniors," Oludaja said. "I typically look up to the seniors to serve as leaders. I tell the juniors that they do not necessarily need to be captains to be a leader."

The 'Hounds graduated six seniors after last season. This year the 'Hounds will look to seniors Ali Ackman, Jessica Driskell, Elizabeth Schieber and Amy Van de Ven to make big plays. Oludaja has high expectations for the seniors.

Oludaja has no concerns about the freshmen coming in this season. The 'Hounds have a handful of freshmen excited to play this year.

"This year's seniors worked so well together with the freshmen last year," Oludaja said. "The



TONY BOTTS | SPORTS EDITOR

SOPHOMORE ALYSSA STIENS and graduate Malorie Barnett fight for the ball in the Spoofhounds' 10-0 victory over Chillicothe last season. Stiens recorded a hat trick while Barnett added two goals.

way we structure practices and the way we play, is in a way that (freshmen) will blend in easily." The Spoofhounds kick off the season at 4 p.m. March 22 against Cameron in Cameron, Mo.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Maryville Spoofhounds

March 22	Savannah	Home
March 28	Benton	Away
March 31	Lafayette (Conf)	Away
April 7	Cameron (Conf)	Home
April 11	East Buchanan	Home
April 14	Savannah (Conf)	Away
April 18	Pony Express Tournament	Away
April 25	Benton (Conf)	Home
April 28	Hornet Classic	Away
April 30	Hornet Classic	Away
May 2	Lincoln Prep	Home
May 3	Chillicothe (Conf)	Home
May 5	Smithville (Conf)	Away
May 10	LeBlond (Conf)	Away
May 14	Districts	Away
May 26	Sectionals	Away
May 28	Quarterfinals	Away
June 3	State	Away

Youth returns with experience for 2011

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

A roster made up of 66 percent freshmen is both a blessing and a curse, but that is what Maryville head baseball coach Tom Scarbrough had at his disposal last year.

It was a curse because it led to only four wins, but a blessing because all of those freshmen gained invaluable experience and playing time, preparing them for improvement this season.

"We started a lot of freshmen," Scarbrough said. "Because of that, they got a lot of playing, a lot of experience. A lot of times we asked them to do a lot of things they weren't physically and experience-wise capable of achieving."

Those freshmen are now sophomores and have more than 50 games under their belts including summer leagues.

The Spoofhounds graduated only two players, Nic Mattson and T.J. Stephens. Mattson was

the team's all-district shortstop and leaves a big hole in the infield. Stephens was injured most of the year, but led a youthful pitching staff.

Pitching and defense are two things Scarbrough hopes can carry the team this season. Senior Michael Butler and junior Payton Scarbrough, a second team all-district selection last year, lead the front end of the pitching staff.

Tryouts began Monday and Scarbrough said he had 30 kids out for the team, up from the 24 on last year's squad.

Freshman Trent Nally is a player Scarbrough expects to step in and have an immediate impact.

"He's a great big kid," Scarbrough said. "He's one of the most athletic kids in our school. He's going to have a bright future in all of our programs."

"I've got some high hopes for Nally and I'm just so glad he came out. I think he can throw a little bit. Maybe step in and play

first right away."

With a more experienced team, Scarbrough expects this team to play at least .500 ball and make some noise in the district tournament.

"Last year we wanted to get things rolling, see what we had," Scarbrough said. "Now our goal is to get to .500 and win in the district tournament. We hope to win the district tournament and just keep building the program from that point on."

The 'Hounds open up their season at 4:30 p.m. March 22 against Savannah at Maryville High School.

Opening with a conference opponent will give Maryville an opportunity to see where they stack up in a loaded Midland Empire Conference.

"The MEC teams are still going to be good, fortunately or unfortunately," Scarbrough said. "Savannah is still going to be very, very good. Benton is going to be good. They're all going to be good."

GOLF SCHEDULE

Northwest

March 27-28
Missouri Western Invitational
St. Joseph, Mo.

April 4
Green and Gold Shootout
Maryville, Mo.

April 5
Green and Gold Shootout
St. Joseph, Mo.

April 8-9
Central College Invitational
Pella, Iowa

April 11-12
William Jewell Invitational
Liberty, Mo.

April 18-19
MIAA Championships
Kansas City, Mo.

(Green indicates home game)

Maryville

March 24
Savannah/Smithville
March 31
Lafayette High School
April 4
Smithville/Benton
April 7
Benton/Savannah
April 12
Shenandoah Tournament
April 13
Cameron Tournament
April 15
Richmond Tournament
April 16
Mid Buchanan
April 18
Maryville Tournament
April 20
MEC Tournament
April 21
Chillicothe Tournament
April 27
Districts
May 4
Sectionals
May 16
State

TENNIS SCHEDULE

Northwest men

March 1
March 6
March 9
March 11
March 12
March 13
March 14
March 17
March 19
March 20
March 22
March 25
March 30
Missouri Valley
Nebraska-Kearney
William Jewell (Mo.)
Washington (Mo.)
Missouri-St. Louis
Southeastern Ok. State
Union College (Ky.)
Emporia State
Drury
Truman
Southwest Baptist
Midwestern State
Missouri-Kansas City

April 1
April 2
April 2
April 6
April 8
April 8
April 13
April 15
April 15
April 17
April 19
April 21
Newman (Kan.)
Arkansas-Fort Smith
Dallas Baptist (Texas)
Washburn
Cameron (Okla.)
Incarnate Word (Texas)
Rockhurst (Mo.)
Lindenwood (Mo.)
Graceland (Iowa)
St. Edward's
Nebraska-Omaha
MIAA Championships

Northwest women

March 5
March 6
March 9
March 11
March 12
March 17
March 18
March 20
March 22
March 25
March 26
Drury
Nebraska-Kearney
William Jewell (Mo.)
Washington (Mo.)
Missouri-St. Louis
Emporia State
Fort Hays State
Truman
Southwest Baptist
Midwestern State
Lincoln

April 1
April 2
April 2
April 5
April 6
April 8
April 8
April 9
April 13
April 15
April 15
April 19
April 21
Newman (Kan.)
Arkansas-Fort Smith
Dallas Baptist (Texas)
Missouri Western
Washburn
Cameron (Okla.)
Incarnate Word (Texas)
Central Oklahoma
Rockhurst (Mo.)
Northeastern State Ok.
Southeastern Oklahoma
Nebraska-Omaha
MIAA Championships

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Northwest softball

March 5-6	Teri Mathis Zenner Memorial SB Tourn.	
5	vs. Central Oklahoma	9 a.m.
5	vs. Illinois-Springfield	5 p.m.
6	vs. Missouri S&T	9 a.m.
6	vs. Upper Iowa	11 a.m.
March 15	Nebraska-Kearney (DH)	1 p.m.
March 18-20	MIAA South Crossover Tourn.	
18	vs. Pittsburg State	10 a.m.
18	vs. Missouri Southern	2 p.m.
19	vs. Emporia State	2 p.m.
19	vs. Lincoln	4 p.m.
20	vs. Central Missouri	Noon
20	at Southwest Baptist	4 p.m.
March 25	Washburn* (DH)	2 p.m.
March 26	Fort Hays State* (DH)	Noon
March 30	Wayne State (DH)	2 p.m.
April 1	Pittsburg State* (DH)	3 p.m.
April 2	Missouri Southern* (DH)	Noon
April 5	Nebraska-Omaha* (DH)	3 p.m.
April 8	Southwest Baptist* (DH)	2 p.m.
April 9	Central Missouri* (DH)	Noon
April 13	Rockhurst* (DH)	4 p.m.
April 15-17	MIAA North Crossover Tourn.	
15	vs. Nebraska-Omaha	2 p.m.
15	at Truman	4 p.m.
16	vs. Fort Hays State	4 p.m.
16	vs. Missouri Western	6 p.m.
17	vs. Washburn	1 p.m.
April 22	Truman* (DH)	3 p.m.
April 23	Lincoln* (DH)	Noon
April 29	Missouri Western* (DH)	3 p.m.
April 30	Emporia State* (DH)	Noon
May 5-7	MIAA Tournament	TBA
May 12-14	NCAA Regional Tourn.	TBA

(shaded areas reference home games)
(* references Conference games)

MHS boys' tennis

March 24	Savannah High School	Away
March 31	Lafayette High School	Away
April 5	LeBlond High School	Home
April 7	Benton High School	Home
April 11	Cameron High School	Home
April 12	Shenandoah High School	Away
April 19	Lafayette High School	Home
April 21	Benton High School	Away
April 26	Savannah High School	Home
April 27	Benton Tournament	Away
May 2	LeBlond High School	Away
May 3	Clarinda High School	Away
May 5	Chillicothe High School	Home
May 6	MEC Tournament	Away
May 9	Districts	Away
May 16	Individual Regionals	Away
May 27	Individual State Championships	Away

Northwest baseball

March 4	Central Missouri*	3 p.m.
March 5	Central Missouri*	2 p.m.
March 6	Central Missouri*	Noon
March 11	Missouri Southern*	4 p.m.
March 12	Missouri Southern*	1 p.m.
March 13	Missouri Southern*	Noon
March 18	Fort Hays State*	2 p.m.
March 19	Fort Hays State*	Noon
March 20	Fort Hays State*	Noon
March 23	Newman	2 p.m.
March 26	Truman*	1 p.m.
March 27	Truman*	Noon
March 29	Nebraska-Omaha*	1 p.m.
April 1	Missouri Western*	4 p.m.
April 2	Missouri Western*	1 p.m.
April 3	Missouri Western*	Noon
April 8	Southwest Baptist*	1 p.m.
April 9	Southwest Baptist*	1 p.m.
April 12	Nebraska-Omaha*	1 p.m.
April 16	Pittsburg State*	2 p.m.
April 17	Pittsburg State*	Noon
April 22	Washburn*	4 p.m.
April 23	Washburn*	Noon
April 29	Lincoln*	3 p.m.
April 30	Lincoln*	1 p.m.
May 1	Lincoln*	Noon
May 6	Emporia State*	2 p.m.
May 7	Emporia State*	1 p.m.
May 8	Emporia State*	Noon

(shaded areas reference home games)
(* references Conference games)

Maryville track & field

March 24	Cameron	Away
March 26	Graceland College	Away
April 5	Nebraska City Invitational	Away
April 8	Chillicothe Invitational	Away
April 12	NWMSU Invitational	Away
April 19	Smithville Relays	Away
April 21	Excelsior Springs Invitational	Away
April 26	Platte Co. Invitational	Away
April 29	MEC Track Meet	Home
May 3	Maryville Relays	Home
May 5	Lafayette Irish Relays	Away
May 10	Benton Cardinal Relays	Away
May 14	Districts	Away
May 21	Sectionals	Away
May 27	State	Away

(shaded areas reference home meets)

Northwest track & field

March 26-27
Northwest Herschel Neil Decathlon /
Ashley Nally Heptathlon, Maryville,
Mo.

April 2
Northwest Open, Maryville, Mo.

April 7
Emporia Multi-Events, Emporia, Kan.

April 9
Nebraska Invitational, Lincoln, Neb.

April 16
Northwest Bearcat Open, Maryville,
Mo.

April 21-23
Kansas Relays, Lawrence, Kan.

April 22
Central Missouri Mule Relays, War-
rensburg, Mo.

April 28-30
Drake Relays, Des Moines, Iowa

April 29
Simpson Kip Janvrin Open, Indianola,
Iowa

May 1-2
MIAA Multi-Event Championships,
Pittsburg, Kan.

May 7-8
MIAA Outdoor Championships,
Omaha, Neb.

May 12-14
North Central / Chicago / Emporia,
TBA

May 26-28
NCAA Outdoor National Champion-
ships, Turlock, Calif.

(shaded areas reference home meets)



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